

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 /066 W

----- 031663

R 261456Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4323

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

CINCEUR

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, MZ, RH

SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE-RHODESIA BORDER CLASHES

REF: MAPUTO 143 (NOTAL)

1. SOUTH AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN RADIO HAVE REPORTED TWO MAJOR SHOOTING INCIDENTS ON MOZAMBIQUE-RHODESIA BORDER IN LAST 10 DAYS. LATEST, ACCORDING SABC, TOOK PLACE CIRCA FEB 24-ONE RHODESIAN AND 24 "TERRORISTS" WERE KILLED FOLLOWING RHODESIAN "HOT PURSUIT" OF TERRORISTS.

2. LOCAL SOURCE ADVISED EMBOFF FEB 26 THAT LATEST INCIDENT BEGAN AS EXCHANGE OF FIRE BETWEEN REGULAR MOZAMBIQUE (FPLM)
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TROOPS AND RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES ON BORDER NEAR MALVERNIA,

SOURCE STATED THAT RHODESIAN FORCES ENTERED MAOZMBIQUE IN LAND AND HELICOPTER ASSAULT, WIPED OUT FPLM DETACHMENT, AND WITHDREW. ANOTHER LOCAL SOURCE, WHO TALKED TO A MOZAMBIQUE CUSTOMS OFFICIAL FROM MALVERNIA, STATED THAT EARLIER THIS WEEK AN FPLM ENCAMPMENT IN "NO MAN'S LAND" ON BORDER AREA WAS BOMBED BY SINGLE RHODESIAN JET IN RETALIATION FOR BORDER VIOLATIONS.

3. COMMENT: STRONG RHODESIAN RETALIATION MAY REFLECT RHODESIAN SENSITIVITY AT OPENING OF "NEW FRONT" IN SOUTHEAST RHODESIA. THERE HAS BEEN NO MOZAMBIQUE REPORTING IN LOCAL MEDIA OF RECENT INCIDENTS AND NO PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY GPRM OFFICIALS. THIS IS LIKELY DUE TO FACT THAT ANC GUERRILLAS AND FPLM TROOPS HAVE LOST ENGAGEMENTS AND TAKEN CASUALTIES. HOWEVER, ANC AND FPLM LOSSES, ESPECIALLY THOSE DUE TO RHODESIAN MILITARY OPERATIONS INSIDE MOZAMBIQUE, MAY WELL SPUR PRESIDENT MACHEL AND GPRM TO REQUEST ACTIVE MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM SOCIALIST (COMMUNIST) FRIENDS, AS HE THREATENED TO DO IN HIS FEB 11 SPEECH TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF FRELIMO (REFTEL). CARSON

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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